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Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, asking for an appropriation to pay an agent for paying annuities to the Cherokee Indians of North Carolina

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ANNUITIES TO CHEROKEE INDIANS

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

ASKING FOR

An appropriation to pay an agent for paying annuities to the Cherokee Indians of North Carolina.

FEBRUARY 18, 1868.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

February 17, 1868.

SIR: The fourth section of the act of July 29th, 1848, (9 Stat. 264,) provides, by a continuing appropriation, for the annual payment by the Secretary of the Treasury to the Cherokees of North Carolina of the interest on a principal sum set apart by him in a manner indicated by the act, and pursuant to the terms of the treaty of New Echota, proclaimed May 23d, 1836, (7 Stat. 479)

Payments were made accordingly up to the 29th July, 1859, but since that date the annuities are in arrear, so that on the 29th July, 1868, there will be due upwards of \$40,000.

Congress has from time to time provided for the compensation and expenses of an agent necessary to be employed in making these payments, but the appropriations heretofore made for that object are exhausted, and there is now no fund properly applicable to it.

During the continuance of the war of course no steps were taken in this matter, but about a year ago, upon application being made for payment of the arrears, it was found necessary to despatch an agent to procure information, and, at the suggestion of the Comptroller of the Treasury, whose advice was solicited, his pay and expenses were met from the contingent fund of the Secretary's office, to the amount of \$1,392. The greater part, if not all, the persons appearing on the original roll prepared in 1848 are found to have representatives living and entitled to receive their proportions. It is necessary, however, to employ a trustworthy agent to arrange all preliminaries of payment and make the disbursements. The contingent fund of the Secretary's office is required for other objects, and is not of sufficient magnitude to sustain further drafts on this account. I would therefore suggest that an appropriation be made of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500) "for compensation and expenses of an agent for paying annuities to the Cherokee Indians of North Carolina."

I am, sir, very respectfully,

H. McCULLOCH,

Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. SCHUYLER COLFAX,
Speaker House of Representatives.

P. S.—It is the purpose of this department to ask that this and other matters relating to Indians be by law transferred to the Interior Department, where they would seem rightfully to belong, but such a transfer would not in any measure relieve the necessity for the appropriation herein suggested.

H. McCULLOCH